All the guilty students were suspended from classes for 3 weeks and monetary penalties were also imposed on some of them.

(d) The Government has taken note of the problem of ragging in Universities/Colleges. In order to explore the measures for curbing of ragging in Universities and Colleges, the UGC in September, 1999 constituted an expert committee. The report of expert committee was circulated to all universities for necessary action. Besides, the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Civil Petition No. 656 of 1998 on curbing the menace of ragging in the educational institutions have been circulated to all the State/UT Governments/Universities for strict compliance. The Commission has also invited the attention of the universities to the report of the committee constituted by the I.I.T. Delhi on measures to curb ragging. AICTE has also issued instructions to all the State Secretaries (Technical Education) and Vice-Chancellors of Technical Universities for taking necessary steps to prevent ragging in the Institutes.

Transfer of teachers in Kendriya Vidyalayas

375. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have found clear cut evidence that irregular procedure was adopted in the past to affect transfer of Kendriya Vidyalaya teachers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) Transfers made under the guidelines with effect from April 1, 2000 in the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) led to a widespread dislocation of teachers across the country. Many of them were transferred thousands of kilometers away from their place of residence and families. Many couples were also separated across thousands of kilometers. This caused widespread misery in the entire system. Hundreds of teachers resigned from the service, some were dismissed for their inability to join in remote places. The measure not only affected families but also deprived KVS of experienced teachers. The recent transfer guidelines of 7th July, 2004 have tried to address this problem and is helping people to come closer

to their places of residence. The salient features of modified transfer guidelines are as under:—

(i) The concept of "displacement transfers" has been done away with.

(ii) The transfers should mostly be done only against vacancies on the basis of requests received for the same.

(iii) In general, teachers/staff members will not be transferred except on administrative grounds.

(iv) The concept of surplus teachers has been changed from the existing criteria of declaring the teachers with longest stay as surplus to the teachers with least number of years served in a particular Vidyalaya.

(v) In order to ensure that there is minimum disruption of teachers from Kendriya Vidyalayas, it has been decided that even in case of promotion of teachers, the teachers can continue to work in the same Vidyalaya provided there is a vacancy. In case there is no vacancy he/she can exercise his request for the nearest available vacancies.

(vi) In order to provide relief to teachers who resigns from the service or were dismissed following their inability to join in places of posting as a result of transfer guidelines of the year 2000, a Committee has been constituted to consider the appeals of such teachers. They can appeal before this committee latest by 15th December, 2004 and this committee would take a decision within a month after that. This humane approach in the current transfer policy has been widely appreciated and it is hoped that within a year or two the KVS will be able to redress the grievances of all the affected teachers to a substantial extent.

Casualties in practical classes of chemistry

376. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of cases of accidents and deaths have been reported involving the students/Laboratory Assistants engaged in practical classes in chemistry in Delhi University and various colleges thereunder during the past few years and if so, the details thereof; and